

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 1, 14 and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter claimed by the Applicant as his invention. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Replacement drawing sheets for Sheets 12 – 15 are included with the correct figure numbering. The Drawing Descriptions in the specification are correct as filed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Albarelli. As stated by the Examiner, Albarelli discloses a porous flexible container comprised of a mesh synthetic polymeric material, the container having inner and outer surfaces and the container includes one closed end and an adjustable open end through which an article can be placed. Albarelli, however, does not disclose an abrasive surface. There is no teaching or suggestion to include an abrasive surface because the device described in Albarelli is merely a carrying bag and is not designed to clean the items within the bag. The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the abrasive surface cleans produce when in contact with produce. Albarelli is an improved method for constructing a mesh carrying bag and does not anticipate the instant invention as all claimed limitations are not shown or described.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Van Loon III. Van Loon is another version of a mesh carrying bag. As described above with reference to Albarelli, Van Loon does not teach or suggest using an abrasive surface as there is no need for an abrasive surface in a mesh carrying bag. The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the abrasive surface cleans produce when in contact with produce. Van Loon does not anticipate the instant invention as all claimed limitations are not shown or described.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McGuire. McGuire is yet another mesh carrying bag which does not teach or suggest having an abrasive cleaning surface as claimed in the instant invention. McGuire does not anticipate the instant invention as all claimed limitations are not shown or described.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kahnweiler. Kahnweiler teaches a soap bag and includes an inner bag for soap and an outer bag for soap-abrading material such as cork. The bag does not include an abrasive cleaning surface; rather the soap abrading material is used for foaming the soap and not for cleaning. Kahnweiler does not anticipate the instant invention as all claimed limitations are not shown or described.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 1,208,680. It appears from the drawings that this patent describes another mesh carrying bag. According to the Examiner's statements, the bag is for vegetables. However, there is no indication that the bag is for cleaning vegetables or that the bag includes an abrasive surface specifically designed for such cleaning purposed. DE 1,208,680 does not anticipate the instant invention as all claimed limitations are not shown or described.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 14-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 1,208,680 in view of Belmont. As discussed above, DE 1,208,860 appears to be a mesh carrying bag for vegetables and Belmont is cited for adding an elastic closing means. Belmont describes an air permeable bag for packaging fruits and does not disclose a surface for cleaning the packaged fruits. The combination of DE 1,208,680 and Belmont does not teach an abrasive surface for cleaning produce as is claimed in the instant invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Loon, III in view of Shaw. As discussed previously, Van Loon is a mesh carrying bag. Shaw is cited for use of an elastic at the open end. Shaw describes a shopping bag and makes no suggestion of using an abrasive surface for cleaning items carried in the bag as it is

meant for transportation of the items, not for cleaning of the items. The combination of Van Loon and Shaw does not teach an abrasive surface for cleaning produce as is claimed in the instant invention.

All claims now in the application are deemed patentably distinguishable over the art applied and noted, but not relied upon. Accordingly, allowance of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Chasteen", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kimberly A. Chasteen
Reg. No. 36,755

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(757) 249-5100

Williams Mullen
721 Lakefront Commons, Suite 200
Newport News, VA 23606

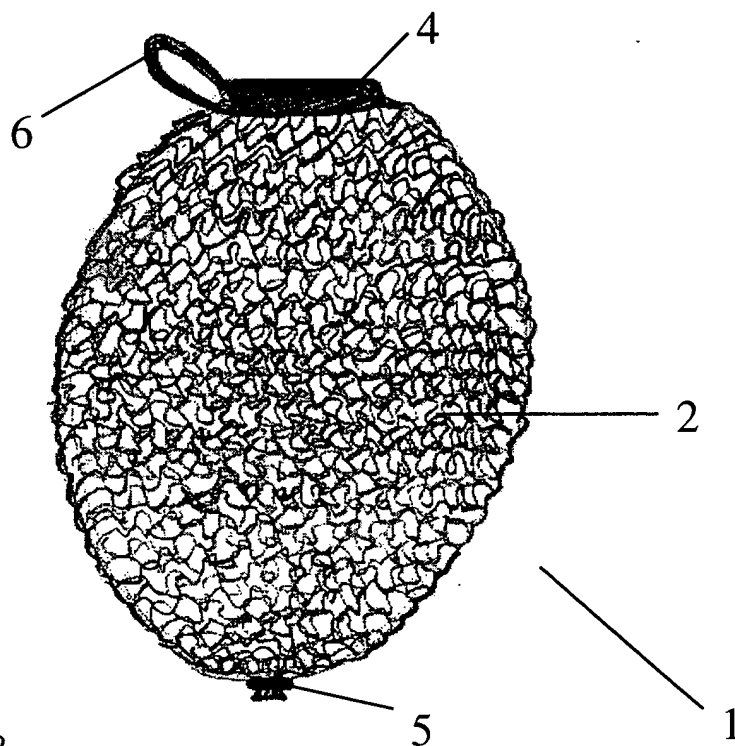


Fig. 8

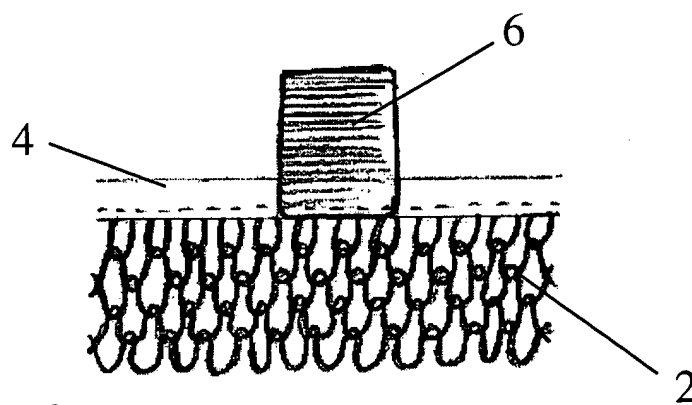


Fig. 9

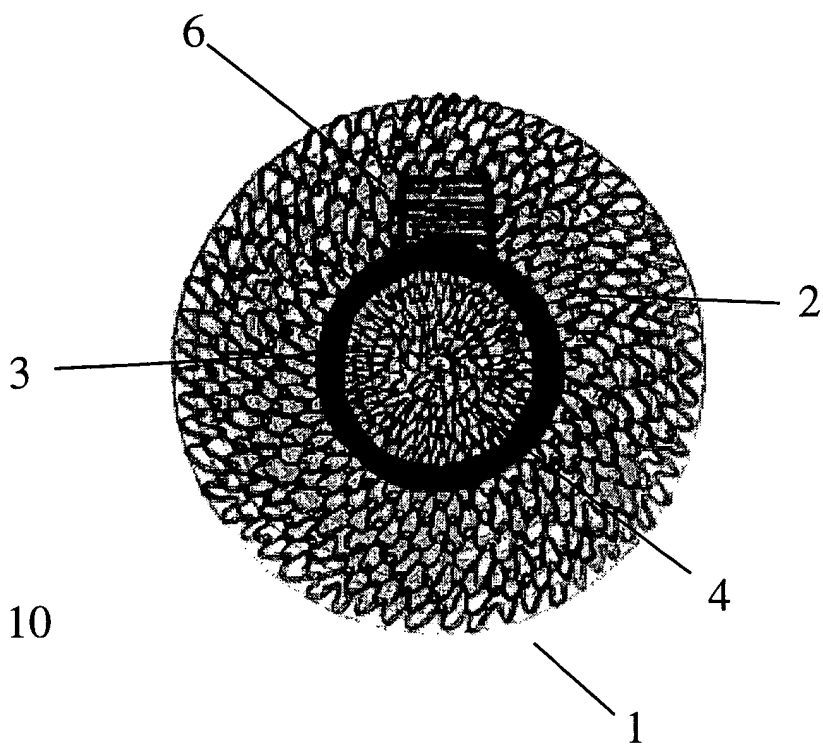


Fig. 10

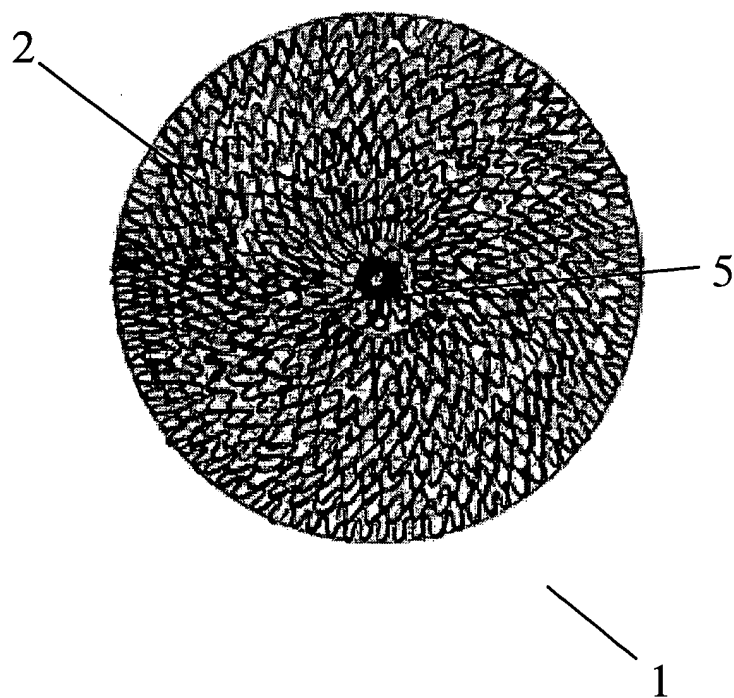


Fig. 11

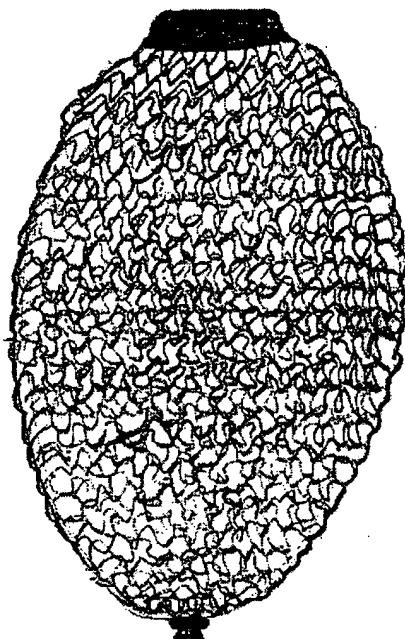


Fig. 12

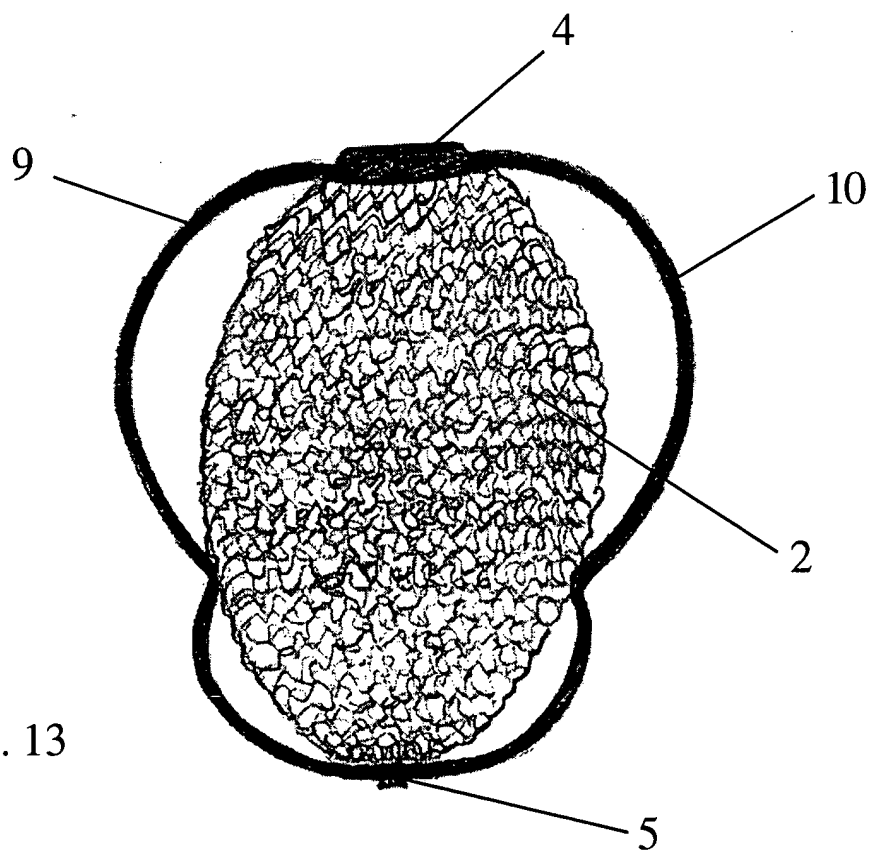


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

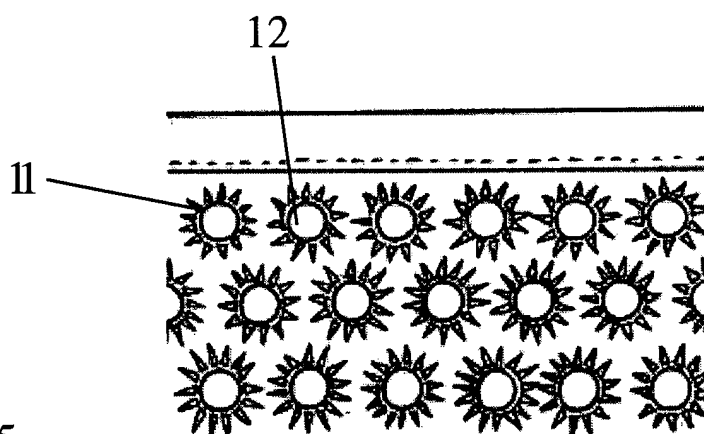


Fig. 15